

THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1907.

WHOLE NO. 1456

FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

U. S. Inspector Larimer Visits Alma and Arranges Details for Free Delivery.

HOPE TO BE READY APRIL 1ST.

Location of Mail Boxes—Postmaster C. F. Brown Desires Great Credit for Results Obtained.

Last week postmaster C. F. Brown spent two days with J. A. Larimer a U. S. postoffice inspector, in going over the streets of the city selecting places for mail boxes for the coming free delivery. The boxes are to be located on corners having electric lights and as far as arranged for will be located as follows: One in Wright Hall and one on the corner of Centre and Grant Streets, Wright and West Superior Streets, North Wright Street, near residence of H. Wise, Forest and Centre streets, Prospect and Superior streets, one each in Wright House and Sanitarium, one on corner of State and Walnut Streets, Superior and Woodworth Avenue, Woodworth Avenue and Hastings Street, Superior and Water Streets, Walnut and Water Street, Hastings and Pine Street, Euclid and Superior Streets, Grover and Superior Streets and Ely and Moyer Streets, making a total of eighteen mail boxes distributed over the city. The residence portion of the city will receive two mails a day while the business section of the city will have their mail delivered four times a day, the first delivery being made at 7 o'clock a. m. It is hoped to have the service in operation by April 1, but the work necessary to perfecting the details may necessitate delay until July 1st. Postmaster Brown is to be congratulated on securing for Alma this metropolitan improvement inasmuch as the government is very loath to grant these favors to cities of less than 5,000 population.

SOLID FINANCIALLY.

The First State Bank of Alma Shows Steady Increase in Surplus.

The statement of the First State Bank of this city published in the RECORD last week is an excellent criterion of the prosperous condition of the people in and adjacent to Alma. Organized in 1902 as a State Bank the surplus of the institution has increased steadily as follows:

January 1902, surplus	\$ 3,300
" 1903, "	6,000
" 1904, "	10,000
" 1905, "	14,000
" 1906, "	17,500
" 1907, "	20,000

Not only has the surplus grown, but all other departments of the institution have felt the benefit of the prosperous times and increased proportionately until the total footings shown in the January statement exceed those of any other of Gratiot county's excellent banks. This is a matter of local pride and one which shows the people of Alma and vicinity to be located in one of the prosperous spots of the Wolverine state.

DISTRICT NO 4 PINE RIVER.

Report of school district, No. 4, Pine River, for the month ending Feb. 1: Number of days taught 20, number of pupils enrolled 35. Total days attendance 496½. Average daily attendance, 24. Those neither absent nor tardy, Bernice Adams, John Wilke, A. I. Cohoon, Etta Johnson, Harlow Raycraft, Roy Mills, Maudie Veeder and Ray Raycraft. Those tardy but not absent are: Willie and Helen Wright, Edna Wilke, Nina Cohoon and Hazel Wilke.

LAVINA JOHNSON, Teacher.

SKATING PARTY.

The Epler skating rink was the scene of a pleasant skating party last Thursday night. The party was given by Miss Harriet Lancashire of this place to Miss Knowlton of Saginaw, who is the guest of her sister, Mrs. H. C. Richardson. The party assembled at 8 p. m. and all enjoyed the skating until 8:30, when dainty refreshments were served by the hostess. At 10:30 the party left the rink, all agreeing that they had had a most entertaining evening.

About 25 skaters gathered at the rink on Monday night, and enjoyed another party given by Mrs. J. H. Lancashire and Mrs. Francis King. Refreshments were served at 9:30 the party breaking up at 10:30.

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS.

Following are the twelve commandments which thoroughly indicate the business side of the mail order concern:

1. You shall sell your farm produce for cash wherever you can, but not to us; we do not buy from you.
2. You shall believe our statements and buy all you need from us because we want to be good to you, although we are not acquainted with you.
3. You shall send the money in advance to give us a chance to get the goods from the factory with your money, and meanwhile you will have to wait patiently a few weeks because that is our business method.
4. You shall advertise us at all times and in all places.
5. You shall buy your church bells and interior church fixtures from us and forward the money in advance, for that is our business method.
6. You shall collect from the business men in your vicinity as much money as you can for the benefit of your churches. Although we get more money from you than they do, still it is against our rules to donate money for building country churches.
7. You shall buy your tools from us and be your own mechanic in order to drive the mechanic from your vicinity for we wish it so.
8. You will induce your neighbor to buy everything from us, as we have room for more money.
9. You shall often look at the beautiful pictures in our catalogue so your wishes will increase and you will send in a big order, although you are not in immediate need of the goods; otherwise you might have some left to buy necessary goods of your local merchants.
10. You shall have the mechanic who repairs the goods you buy from us book the bill, so that you can send the money for his labor to us for new goods, otherwise he will not notice our influence.
11. You shall believe us in preference to your local merchants.
12. You shall, in case of accident, sickness or need, apply to local dealers for aid and credit, as we do not know you.—Michigan Tradesman.

EATS HALF WEIGHT IN SUGAR

Average Citizen of U. S. Consumes 76 Pounds Annually

A Washington dispatch says: "The average citizen of the United States seems to have consumed one-half his own weight in sugar in the year just ended," says a statement issued today by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. The average per capita consumption was 76 pounds. The amount of sugar consumed was 6,500,000,000 pounds, at a cost of \$300,000,000. Of this enormous consumption, one-fifth was produced in this country, another one-fifth was imported from our island possessions, and the remaining three-fifths, or 3,864,665,661 pounds from foreign countries.

Of the production of sugar in the United States last year, a little less than one-half was from cane, and a little more than one-half from beets. The quantity of beet sugar entering into American consumption was 672,000,000 pounds, showing a remarkable increase and for the first time exceeding the production of the product from cane. There was an increase of 260 per cent in the production of beet over cane sugar from 1900 to 1906. Rapid as the increase in sugar production in the United States has been in recent years, it has not by any means kept pace with the increased consumption. In the last ten years there has been an increase of consumption of this article of 2,024,816,480 pounds, it being more than three times as great as the increased home production.

BEST IN ITS HISTORY.

At the annual meeting of stockholders of the Advance Thresher Company of Battle Creek the statements read showed that the company had done the largest business during the past year, of any in its history and that the affairs of the company are in an exceedingly satisfactory condition in every way. The following directors were re-elected: A. W. Wright, S. O. Bush, B. T. Skinner, Charles E. Thomas, Minard La Fever, W. T. Knowlton, M. M. Lewis and Chas. C. Green. Officers: A. W. Wright, president; S. O. Bush, vice-president; B. T. Skinner, secretary and treasurer; and Charles E. Thomas, attorney.

NOTICE.

I wish to announce to the people of Alma and vicinity that I have purchased the dental practice of the late Dr. Kelly and will be located at his former office, which will be opened Monday, Feb. 18.

DR. MAYNARD PRINGLE.

ASPHALT MASTIC CO.'S

Business Limited Only by the Capacity of the Plant—Ten Tons a Day Average.

FACTORY TO BE ENLARGED.

Seventeen Men Now Employed and the Plant a Valuable Acquisition to Alma's Manufacturing Interests

Manager Thum of the Asphalt Mastic Co., of this place, states that the concern is now doing business in earnest and that they are limited only by facilities, as they are shipping their output as fast as it is made.

When the concern erected their first building in Alma it was considered quite a venture as there was only one other concern of its kind in the United States, which was at Bakersfield, California. The concern at this place was a complete success, owing to climatic reasons. There was no necessity for an enclosed building, the only requirements being an affair to protect the workmen from sun and rain. The air and wind could circulate freely and in this manner all explosive gasses could be carried away.

In building a plant here the difficulties that an enclosed building would entail, must be overcome and experience was the teacher. On Sept. 25th, 1906, the company met their first drawback in the form of a fire. The loss was considerable as the whole building was destroyed and it was necessary to start all over again. The building was repaired and when the company's affairs were once more prospering the fire fiend made another call. Nothing daunted and in the face of such discouragements the company decided that they would invest \$10,000 in a new building, which was done. The fires had taught them much and they made many changes in the arrangement of the new plant.

The valves were placed on the end of the kettles. Previously they had run from the melter back through the fire. This was found very impractical and in the new plant all valves are at the end of the kettle and run through brickwork. No fire is allowed to touch them, but much heat is necessary as the asphalt hardens very quickly—a half inch steam pipe now runs through the valves and back again.

The company has put out 400 tons of Asphalt Mastic since the new plant started operations. Ten tons is their daily output. This output will be increased during the hot summer months to about 17 tons. The reason for this increase is that their output is limited by the size of their mixer and the amount of lime they are able to mix with the asphalt. The hot summer sun dries their lime very quickly, while during the winter months they have not this helpmate. In California the climate favors them in this respect. Their output is shipped to the H. M. Reynolds Co., of Grand Rapids and the National Mastic Roofing Co. of Edwardsville, Ill. They also ship some of their mastic to Saginaw.

The Alma Plant employs about seventeen men, this force includes the foremen and cooper.

Preparations are being made to enlarge the plant in several ways during the coming summer. The cooling room will have to be extended to the old plant in order that they may have room to accommodate the summer increase. The old building will also be re-roofed as more room is absolutely necessary. All of the building hereafter will be of material that is strictly fire proof to avoid a repetition of former fire losses.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

A fine new office building is to be erected in Alma by Dr. J. F. Suydam. The new office will be of cement blocks and erected on the doctor's property, back of the old site. James Chase of this city is the contractor and he will commence operations just as soon as the first thaw arrives. The plans call for a building 44x22 feet and it will be both graceful and modern. Not only will the office be attractive from the exterior, but fine new office fixtures will welcome all visiting patients. Dr. Suydam has occupied his corner location for a number of years and he states that he does not think the change of forty or fifty feet will be detrimental to him.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Will be at Chadwick's office Feb. 20 to collect taxes. J. J. HACKETT, Arcadia township.

Largest variety Valentines at Rhode's.

BIG EVENT FOR K. OF P. LODGE

The district meeting of the K. of P. Lodge was held in the lodge rooms in this city last evening and was a great success. The meeting was in charge of Grand Chancellor Abbey of Kalamazoo. First rank was conferred on a class of about twenty-five candidates and the Grand Lodge ranks on all Past Chancellors wishing the same. The out of town lodges that were invited to send delegates were Clare, Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca, and St. Louis. Coleman was also sent an invitation, but owing to poor train service were unable to be present.

After the meeting all of the guests adjourned to the vacant store rooms in the Lancashire block and enjoyed a sumptuous banquet which was served by the Pythian Sisters. Altogether it was one of the most successful meetings the lodge has ever had in the city. Following is the programme which took place at the banquet:

Toast-master—John D. Spinney. Address of Welcome in behalf of Grand Lodge officers and visiting Knights—Hon. Kelly S. Seal of Ithaca.

Lodge Dues—Frank B. Doherty of Clare.

Pythian Sisters—Fred Russet of Mt. Pleasant.

The Uniform Rank—How it can best be sustained and the benefit of it to the Subordinate Lodge—Fred Griswold of Ithaca.

The Joiner—Geo. S. Aldrich, St. Louis. Remarks by Grand Chancellor P. L. Abbey and other Grand Officers.

The special train from the north brought about 175 passengers to attend the banquet given by the Pythian Sisters in the Lancashire block last evening. Arrangements had only been made to seat 135 and the ladies were unable to accommodate all at the first table. Those who could not be seated were royally entertained otherwise however.

The banquet was a pleasant affair and enjoyed in proportion. The ladies served a four-course spread. The decorations were very artistic, the colors being red, blue, white and yellow bunting draped from the ceilings and walls. The tables were garnished with smilax and pink and white carnations. The brilliantly lighted room and the pleasant scene enacted there will not soon be forgotten by the banqueters and the Pythian Sisters are to be congratulated upon their ability to conduct an affair of that kind.

A QUIET WEDDING.

A quiet wedding took place in the office of the Judge of Probate in Ithaca, last Saturday morning, when Mr. Wm. Holzheuer Sr., of this city, and Miss Clara Dittmer of Tawas City, Mich., were united in matrimony. Mr. Mart Smith of this place acted as witness to the ceremony. Mr. Holzheuer has been employed at the Sugar Factory as foreman over the sugar end for the past three years, while Miss Dittmer has been taking the place of housekeeper in his home for some time. Their many friends wish them success and much prosperity.

BRINGS ON BITTER FIGHT.

Congressman Darragh Led in Lopping Off R. R.'s Pay for Carrying Mail.

A Washington dispatch of last Saturday says:

"Congressman Darragh is probably responsible for one of the biggest fights to occur on the floor of the house in recent years. The fight has not come off as yet but it is anticipated with confidence when the postoffice appropriation bill comes up for consideration. Mr. Darragh is a member of the committee on post offices, which has just finished drawing the bill referred to, and in doing so lopped off about \$9,500,000 from the amount to be paid per annum to the railroads for carrying the mails. It is on this that the fight is expected. It raged in the committee while the bill was being drawn, and there is no reason to expect a cessation of hostilities when the measure is considered in the house.

While the bill was being drawn little was heard of what was going on in the committee room, but now that the bill is completed, it is leaking out that for the first time in years the postoffice committee has been having a real 'go' to a finish. In spite of the abolition of railroad passes, the railroads have their friends in congress, and they have some on the postoffice committee as well. They fought each of the four steps taken by the committee to reduce the railroad mail pay, and they fought so hard and effectively that at the very last they needed but one vote to reconsider and table the railroad reductions, and that vote was withheld from them by Mr. Darragh's efforts."

ALMA COLLEGE ITEMS.

Froebel Society Elect Officers—Sleighing Party to St. Louis—Annual Rhetorical.

PHI PHI ALPHA BANQUET.

D. A. Johnson of McCormick Seminary Toastmaster—Dining Room a Scene of Splendor

The students were much pleased to receive a short visit from Miss Leta Gilbert of Bay City.

Miss Bert Reader entertained her mother a few days at Wright Hall.

The mother of Henry Lathers visited her college over Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Hough, the friend of Wm. Sutherland, arrived here Monday morning from Saginaw to attend the annual Lincoln's birthday banquet.

The election in the Froebel Society last Monday night resulted in the choice of the following officers:

President—Miss Nellie Farrell, Vice-Pres.—Miss Grace Johnson. Secretary—Miss Zaidee Markam.

Treasurer—Miss Margaret Morrison, Al. Rep.—Miss Helen Strange. 1st Critic—Miss Eva Simms.

2nd Critic—Miss Helen Francis.

A jolly time was had by those who joined the sleighing parties last Saturday afternoon. One large load went to St. Louis and another, somewhat smaller, went to Ithaca. The members were chaperoned by Miss Mulenbach, and were entertained by Theodore Nelson, a member of the freshmen class. Another party walked out to the home of Mr. Murphey and enjoyed another one of those delicious spreads. There were few left in the hall for the evening meal.

The annual Sophomore Rhetorical exhibition was given in the college chapel Feb. 8. The speakers delivered their subjects with much enthusiasm, providing very interesting entertainment for those present. As is customary, the freshmen invited the sophomore class over to Wright Hall and gave them very good refreshments. The menu was:

Preacher's Delight
Symptoms of Love American Islands
A Magic Circle A Hot Time
A Chilly Reception

Adam's Ale Splinters of Fun
It is certainly an evening long to be remembered, for the class of '10 did their best to please the '09 for once. For once there wasn't any tree climbing indulged in.

The new students enrolled at the beginning of the second semester are: Mr. Glen Fisher, Mr. Chas. Ferguson, Miss Mariam Downie, and Miss Mabella Strong. Monday was the day of registration and classification, and was not so much of a holiday as might be expected for everyone was busy making preparations, and paying bills for the remainder of the year.

The Y. W. and Y. M. C. A. cordially invite all students to the opening reception at Wright Hall next Friday evening, Feb. 15. This is the last function of this kind this year and it is hoped that each and all will be present.

The Phi Phi Lincoln's Birthday banquet proved to be very successful. As is customary the society held their banquet on Monday evening. Of course the members had anticipated this event for some time and were in an attitude to fully enjoy it. The men with their ladies gathered in the parlors of the Alma Springs Sanitarium at 8 p. m. and soon repaired to the banquet hall. The room had been made attractive, and the table was decorated with red and white carnations on a background of green foliage. The banquet was served in nine courses. Those present were glad to have Mr. David A. Johnson of McCormick Seminary as toastmaster, for with his wit and humor he gave tone to the enjoyment of the evening. Mr. P. J. Allured, '09, responded to the toast, "Abraham Lincoln." Miss Grace M. Johnson graced the program by expostulating the virtues of "College Knights." Mr. John Marchmont, '10, talked on "Jingles, Jokes and Rhymes." Mr. F. W. Cobb, '08, talked on the subject "Romances," and Mr. E. B. McDonald, '09, spoke on the topic, "Alma."

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the Alma Board of Trade, will be held on Tuesday evening, Feb. 26, 1907, at the City Hall at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of electing twelve directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

BY ORDER OF
T. W. MARSH, Manager.

SPRING PREPARATIONS.

Big preparations are being made for spring building by the different contractors in Alma and there will be an unprecedented number of houses erected in various sections of the city.

The boom is most promising in the eastern part of town in and north of Alma Heights. Stone, piles of lumber and cement blocks are appearing and vacant lots promise to be speedily occupied.

The majority of proposed houses will be seven and eight-room dwellings to accommodate the class of people who will be most probable to occupy them. Stone is already on the ground, opposite the Manufacturing plant, which is the location of the new Hay Press concern, and ground will be broken for the foundations just as soon as the first spring thaw is here. This new concern will bring people here who must have homes. This, and many other similar reasons, explains why this section is being built up so rapidly.

Caple & Soule will not undertake contracting to any extent next spring, but state that they will put up several houses for themselves.

C. H. Decker states that he will build two houses on Michigan Ave. One on each side of the George Ogden property. These will be eight-room houses and are not contracted for as yet.

Hall & Sharrar's addition will also find itself incumbered with a few houses by the coming fall. Mr. Sharrar states that they will build several seven-room dwellings.

Contractor M. Cross, who was injured by a fall last summer, was unable to carry out his building plans at that time, but states that he will build four houses in the eastern section.

G. S. Youngs can make no definite statements at this time, but he builds so extensively every spring that we can expect to hear from him later.

A NEW MILLINERY STORE.

Carpenters are at work on the Suydam office building and are making several changes. The exterior is to be painted and the interior will be remodeled and put in shape to receive a new millinery stock of which Mrs. T. J. Gaffney of this city will be the owner.

Mrs. Gaffney left for Cleveland on Monday, Feb. 11, to engage a trimmer who will be strictly first-class. She will also purchase her stock while in Cleveland of Reed Bros.

Her intention is to be away for two or three weeks and will visit the millinery openings in Toledo and Detroit upon her return to Alma.

She will endeavor to carry the most complete and up-to-date millinery stock in Alma.

Dr. Suydam will occupy apartments in the rear of the building he is now in, until he can erect a new and suitable office building.

WELL ATTENDED.

The G. A. R. of this and surrounding towns assembled in Alma last Tuesday to observe the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Elm Hall, St. Louis and Ithaca sent delegations amounting to 75 people. The Relief Corps of the various places were also liberally represented. There were two meetings during the day, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The afternoon exercises were held in the Town Hall and the following programme was rendered:

Addresses were given by Mr. Griffin of St. Louis; Mrs. A. H. Brown, Ithaca; Mr. Cowdrey, Ithaca; Rev. Elder, of Alma. Recitation—Miss Winnie Griffin, Alma. After the exercises a business session was held and those present perfected a county organization of the Lincoln Memorial Association. Col. Saviers of St. Louis, was elected President and J. W. Holmes of Alma, secretary.

The evening exercises were held in the M. E. church of this city. After a bounteous supper had been served by the ladies of the W. R. C. in the G. A. R. hall. The exercises commenced at 7:00 p. m., with addresses by Dr. Jay Clibbe, Alma; M. D. Lee, Alma; Rev. Clapp, Alma; Mr. Robert Miller, Elwell.

Recitation—Miss Trude Fatty, Alma. Selection, Male Quartette—Messrs. Kinch, Bergy, Wright, and McCurdy of Alma.

Selection, "Give Us Another Lincoln."

—Vern Wright, Alma.

All of those present voted that this was a very successful meeting and that they had been royally entertained. The out-of-town posts decided to meet here again the coming year as the train service is so excellent for all.

TAXPAYERS NOTICE.

I can be found at the office of the City Clerk, every Friday until March 1st, to receive your taxes.

J. A. BAKER, City Treasurer.